

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 7, please replace "**Problem and Invention**" with --**Summary of the Invention**--.

At page 4, line 7, please replace "5'-GAGACCAAAACAACGAA-3'" with --5'-

C2 GAGACCAAAACAACGAA-3'--.

At page 31, line 3, after "...CGGGTG" please insert (SEQ ID NO: 26).

At page 31, line 4, after "Val" please insert (SEQ ID NO: 27).

At page 31, line 8, after "...CGGGTG" please insert (SEQ ID NO: 28).

At page 31, line 9, after "Val" please insert (SEQ ID NO: 29).

At page 6, line 7, please insert:

--Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 2.1 displays a schematic diagram of contents of the plasmid pJLA604Not.

Figure 2.2 displays a schematic diagram of contents of the plasmid pMSK12.

Figure 2.3 displays the nucleotide sequence of alanine dehydrogenase gene (SEQ ID NO: 1) and the location of oligonucleotides displayed in Figure 2.5.

C3 Figure 2.5 displays the name and sequence of various oligonucleotides named AlaDH-F1, AlaDH-F1+, AlaDH-F2, AlaDH-F4, AlaDH-F5, AlaDH-F6, AlaDH-F7, AlaDH-R1, AlaDH-R2, AlaDH-R3, AlaDH-R4, AlaDH-R5, AlaDH-R6, AlaDH-R7, and AlaDH-RM used to amplify fragments of alanine dehydrogenase gene (SEQ ID NOS: 11-25, respectively).

Figure 3.16 displays a graph of alanine dehydrogenase activities of various *Mycobacteria* strains.

Figure 3.17 displays PCR amplification products of alanine dehydrogenase gene fragments.

Figure 3.18 displays PCR amplification products of alanine dehydrogenase gene fragments under different hybridization conditions.

Figure 3.19 displays the nucleotide sequence of various *M. tuberculosis* alanine dehydrogenase genes from strains 40kD, Tub1, H37Rv, H37Ra, BCG4, BCG2, Bov3, Afr1, and Mic1 (SEQ ID NOS: 2-10, respectively).

Detailed Description of the Invention--